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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Twenty-Second Ordinary Session**

**21 – 25 January 2013**

**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

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**REPORT OF 4<sup>TH</sup> AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF YOUTH,  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 12 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**REPORT OF 4<sup>TH</sup> AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF YOUTH,  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 12 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

1. The Fourth Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY IV) convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 12 to 14 September 2012 to discuss proposed actions, orientations and funding strategies to accelerate the implementation of the Decision and Declaration from the Malabo Summit in 2011 on Youth Empowerment and Employment. The conference also addressed the challenges related to budgeting and funding youth programmes while reflecting seriously on how African can succeed in reaping the demographic dividend and ensure socio-economic growth through the active participation of young people. Apart from the ministerial delegations from the members States, an important number of partners, high level Experts and youth leaders also attended the COMY IV. The following Bureau was elected for the next two years:

• Congo	Central Africa	Chairperson
• Cote d'Ivoire	West Africa	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson
• Swaziland	Southern Africa	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
• Tunisia	Northern Africa	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson
• Rwanda	Eastern Africa	Rapporteur

2. COMY IV considered, approved and made recommendations on the following issues, among others:

- (i) Youth population seen either as an opportunity or a threat and how to prepare for 2032 within the Africa's Demographic Window;
- (ii) Guidelines to accelerate Youth empowerment and decision implementation, as well as the promotion of youth Employment were also considered;
- (iii) The concern of Professionalizing Youth Work through academic interventions: Youth studies & Research, including training centres & programmes;
- (iv) The Cost of doing business for young Entrepreneurs; how to increase investment for youth empowerment and how to mobilize domestic funding to accelerate youth employment and reduce the unemployment rate in Africa.

3. The report of the Conference includes many other related issues and reflects strong recommendations for quick win actions, as well as long term interventions to sustain Africa's development. Those must be implemented on in short, medium and long term.

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**4<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF  
YOUTH (COMY IV)**

**12-14 SEPTEMBER 2012  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**AU/MIN/COMY/Rprt-Recom(IV)**

**REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN UNION MINISTERIAL IN  
CHARGE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

**12-14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN  
UNION MINISTERIAL IN CHARGE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
12 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The fourth ordinary session of the African Union Ministerial Conference on Youth (COMY IV) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 14 September 2012. A new format was proposed for the conference and welcomed Ministers and experts together to actively participate in the important debate on the Youth empowerment and employment as follow up of the very successful summit in Malabo on the theme “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development.” The COMY IV considered various issues concerning Youth Development, including the youthful population in Africa, the conditions of doing business for young people, investment plan for youth employment and guidelines for youth empowerment. A progress report on the implementation of the African Union Commission Youth programme was presented to indicate the current momentum on youth as subject, but also as target to be reached.

## **II. IN ATTENDANCE**

2. The following **37 Member States**, (including 20 Ministers), were represented: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Republic Democratic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia (the), Ghana, Guinea (Conakry), Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Most of the national delegations are composed of the Minister, the Senior Officer in charge of Youth Affairs and a youth leader from the National Youth Council (NYC).

3. Also participating were the **Pan-African Youth Union (PYU)**, the President, the Secretary General, other delegates from the Executive Committee.

4. **The Regional Economic Communities** were represented through COMESA.

5. The **representatives of the following organizations** also attended the meeting: the African Development Bank (AfDB), The World Bank (WB), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations for Volunteers Programme (UNV), UN-HABITAT, United States representative office to the African Union Commission, Commonwealth Youth Programme, International Budget Partnership, Population Reference Bureau, Oxfam, Plan International, Open Society Foundation, National Human Rights Institutions, Institute of Economic Affairs, Microsoft,

Handicap International, African Youth with Disability Network. Africa Public Health Alliance, AIDS Accountability International (AAI)...

### **III. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Item I: OPENING CEREMONY**

6. Commissioner Jean-Pierre Ezin in his welcome remarks welcomed all the participants. He highly appreciated the important participation from the Member States and linked that level of response to the momentum raised since Malabo towards the youth agenda in Africa. HE Prof. Ezin also recognized and expressed gratitude to all the Partners and Youth representatives present at the conference, which showed the importance attached to the youth development. Then, Commissioner Ezin stressed on the justification of the new format of the Conference and hope that the proposed approach will involve all the participants, especially the ministers in the in-depth reflection of the important issues to be addressed during the coming three days He also expressed his hope for the strong recommendations that will emerge from their debate and guide to concrete and immediate actions.

7. On behalf of Mr Andile Lungisa, President of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), the Secretary General M. Abdoulaye Toure welcomed the commitment shown to young people by our Africa Heads of States, through the Summit held last year in Malabo, and their decisions aimed at improving youth development in Africa. He further urged member states to ensure that these commitments are translated into action so that it can make sense to the young people of Africa in rural areas, young people living with disability, HIV/AIDS, young women and other marginalized groups. The speaker mentioned that PYU continues to lobby for the ratification, domestication and implementation of the African Youth Charter at member states level and urge governments to ensure that their national youth policies are in tandem with the African Youth Charter.

8. PYU continued to call on governments to increase their budgetary support to youth development and also call for their strengthening of national youth councils, national co-coordinating bodies and youth organizations in all countries. In closing; the PYU President invited COMY IV participants to help them celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the PYU, after its creation in Guinea Conakry in 1962, under the theme "Youth Action, for Economic Freedom Now!"

9. Hon. Jean Philibert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth Affairs of Rwanda and chairperson of the COMY III greeted the participants and mentioned that This COMY IV 4 session convenes under the theme: "Africa Deliver as one on youth development". It comes after a series of other important events that led to equally important outcomes. Notable among them are the Heads of states and Governments of the AU meeting of January 2009 in Addis Ababa that issued the African Youth Decade and Plan of action, the previous edition of this session in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in April 2010, but most importantly, the 17th summit of African Heads of states and governments in Malabo under the theme of Accelerating Youth Empowerment for sustainable Development.

**10.** The honourable minister further retaliated that COMY IV seeks to review the progress that we have been able to accomplish collectively and individually as member states.

**11.** In particular, the minister called for more use ICT platforms to maintain our team spirit within the COMY 4 bureau, our fraternity of youth ministers and for the efficient communication and coordination between the HRST and member states.

**Item II: GOVERNANCE: ELECTION OF THE COMY III BUREAU MEMBERS**

**12.** Prior to the reminder on the role and responsibilities of the members of the Bureau, legal guidance and clarification was given by the representative legal officer, who highlighted that a principle of consistency in procedure shall be adopted in the elections, in which Ministers shall elect representatives by region and the Chairperson shall be elected from a region that has not yet been represented in the COMY bureau. The legal officer reminded the plenary that should a consensus not be reached the vote shall be thrown back to the Member States, at which point a two-thirds majority shall be required as is in conformity with Section III, Rule 19 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council. Subsequent to which, the Ministers elected the members of the Bureau of COMY IV. The election process raised a lot of challenging issues involving regional rotation principles and alternate language balance for regions with more than one language. After a long debate, strong recommendation was made that the AU Commission develops written and clear rules and procedures to guide the election of the Bureau of the Ministers Conference. However, agreement was reached, in which the outgoing Chairperson reaffirmed the principle of rotational regional representation, the result of which for the following composition for the Bureau of COMY IV to cover the period of 2012-2014 is as follows:

<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Central Region</b>	<b>Congo</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson	Western Region	Cote d'Ivoire
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Southern Region	Swaziland
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson	Northern Region	Tunisia
Rapporteur	Eastern Region	Rwanda

**13.** The outgoing Chairperson expressed the wish to find a space in the programme of work and offer opportunity to the ministers of each region to meet and agree on a working strategy for the next two years. Then, he informed the conference about the newly elected members of the Bureau of COMY IV, congratulated them and handed over to new Chairman.

**Item III: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK**

14. The agenda and programme of work were adopted without amendment.

**Item IV: CONSIDERATION OF THE VARIOUS PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS**

15. Three progress reports (from the African Union Commission, the Pan African Youth Union and the Bureau of the COMY III) respectively stressed on achievements under respective mandate. It is noted that a lot has been accomplished from April 2010 to September 2012. The detailed reports are attached for more information.

**Item V: YOUTH POPULATION: OPPORTUNITY OR THREAT**

**Panel 5.1 - Preparing for 2032: Africa's Demographic Window**

16. The Ministers of Youth of Africa took note of the session on Demographic Dividends presented at the 4th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Youth and acknowledge that this is a new concept in Africa. However, they did observe that the opportunities for Africa are immense if the critical issues underlying our demographics especially those relating to the young generation are addressed.

17. Africa is experiencing the most rapid urbanization in the world and remains a young population with 35% of its 1 billion people between the ages of 15-34. This number is said to double by 2045. Another dimension is the projected "demographic window" that may set-in by 2032, the case where there is a decrease in the ratio of dependent child per working age adults: thus, if current fertility trends remain the same. However, recent data shows this might not be the case earlier or later, nevertheless, further analysis is required.

18. The presentation focused on what is to happen to a population structure for a dividend to happen. The presentation further highlighted a series of policy changes that need to happen if Africa is to achieve a demographic dividend. Accordingly, a coordinated effort is necessary, including investments in education, good governance, health and economic policies. Of critical importance for the dividend to be achieved includes political will, development planning strategies, changes in social norms and resources.

**Issues Raised**

19. Achieving a demographic dividend is not automatic but takes some strategies: i) Peer to peer grassroots based programmes are a critical approach in countries where access to health and education is minimal; ii) political will at higher level to be used as opportunities to engage with respective government ministries that deal with youth

issues; iii) necessity to repackage family planning to ensure that we reap a demographic dividend from a healthy and educated youth population.

## **Recommendations**

**20.** National Institutions in charge of Youth are requested to:

- a) Participate in the 2013 round of National level data collation and analysis on the status of Youth, with counter-part support from the African Union Commission and its development partners;
- b) Open the dialogue on the cost-benefit of understanding and investing on the unmet need to collate, organize and analyse the trends and projections on youth at population level;
- c) Promote multi-sectoral approaches and change of paradigm: invest in youth capacity and strengthen young women education, sensitization and awareness on health matters including abolishing child marriages;
- d) The AUC and ECA take this issue further to specifically look at policy recommendations for African Governments to be able to adequately address the challenges of the young people and the opportunities possible from the demographic window;
- e) The issue of demographic dividends to be brought to the attention of the African Ministers Finance and Economic Planning at their next AU/ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning.

### **Panel 5.2 - African Youth empowerment: guidelines for accelerating implementation**

**21.** The Malabo Summit of 2011 set a landmark for which the African Union Youth agenda has now been shaped. It adopts the priority areas with the targets for the Youth Decade Plan of Action (DPoA) 2009-2018.

**22.** In operationalizing the decision from Malabo, the Commission was supported by the UNDP to conduct a capacity and needs assessment within which a framework for implementation is proposed towards the five following axes of priority: i) the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) addressing specifically the ICT and agriculture as areas of high demand, ii) Youth civic participation, iii) AU Youth Volunteer Corps, iv) the strengthening of the PYU, v) Strategies for Resource mobilization. The plenary shared the initial findings from the assessment.

### Issues raised/addressed

23. Countries used the opportunity of questions and clarification to present respective efforts under implementation in favour of youth empowerment, support policy from government, initiatives from the youth organization.

### Recommendations

24. The following recommendations derived from the debate on youth empowerment.

- a) Wide dissemination of the decisions and declarations to all concerned stakeholders to facilitate mainstreaming in their respective programme of action at regional and national levels;
- b) Take strong measures to accelerate the reduction of youth and women unemployment and underemployment with the Youth employment Pact as requested by the Malabo Summit;
- c) Supporting youth forums as avenues for empowerment;
- d) Develop a costed national plan of action for youth employment;
- e) Strengthen relevance of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and its link with the demand of the job market;
- f) Systematize the sharing of best practices and experiences by having periodic meetings of youth employment strategies;
- g) Mobilize resources through alternative sources of funding to support youth empowerment projects;
- h) Develop and strengthen inter sectoral collaboration between the ministry in charge of youth and other ministries in charge of key sectors for youth empowerment: health, education, labour, finance, development planning, etc.;
- i) Member States and AUC to support PYU in budget allocation to facilitate implementation of their plan of action;
- j) Specific attention must be given to marginalized youth – using inclusive approaches;
- k) Establish a youth development fund at continental and national levels, as well as the mechanism for its implementation.

### **Panel 5.3 - The Joint initiative on Youth Employment promotion**

**25.** Evidence shows that 3 out of every 5 unemployed people in Africa are under 35 years. The AU/Assembly/Decl.1(VII) of 2011 mandated the Commission in collaboration with AfDB and other International organizations to develop a partnership towards addressing the situation of Youth unemployment and underemployment in Africa and guarantee decent work standards. This decision further seeks to implement the 2004 Ouagadougou Plan of Action on Youth and Women employment and the AU Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) target on reducing Youth unemployment by 2% per annum. The initiative will intervene in the 3 following areas: i) Policy interventions, ii) Direct interventions and iii) Knowledge for Informed Action. The first phase will cover 3 years and target 15 states including 5 fragile countries.

#### **Issues Raised**

**26.** The importance of the informal sector and the level of under-employment were raised as concerns of all countries. The necessity of utilizing the talents of the youth and establish youth networks on specific areas of interest. It has been noted that the joint initiative is working in a coordinated effort in addressing the youth unemployment and entrepreneurship. There is also necessity to regulate the job market while considering the economic growth within diversified productive systems.

#### **Recommendations/way forward**

**27.** Specific actions are requested to ensure sustainability of implementation impacts, including the following:

- a) Engage in a mapping exercise to better understand the youth unemployment situation at country level when developing programmes;
- b) Consider and analyse the cultural dimension of youth employment;
- c) Fight the corruption;
- d) Support and formalize the 1<sup>st</sup> internship as job experience window;
- e) Strengthen the volunteer work among the youth;
- f) Elaborate on youth employment in post conflict countries;
- g) Establish database on youth employment.

**Item VI: POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES ON THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER****Panel 6.1 - Enforcement and accountability for Youth Rights through Governance, popular and civic participation**

**28.** A summary of the African Youth Charter (AYC) was presented and the importance of the various issues covered by the charter. Member states that have ratified the charter have to fulfil obligations set out therein. The Charter also sets out duties to be fulfilled by the AUC. The AYC contributes to the African Human Rights Charter by taking in to account the specific aspects of youth.

**Issues Raised**

**29.** Emphasis on the role that the AUC should play in addressing and enforcing youth rights.

**30.** Member states are requested to legislate the provisions of the AYC to create an enabling environment.

**Recommendations**

**31.** Two major recommendations were formulated towards the AYC:

- a) African Youth Charter to be further implemented in programming for youth;
- b) The COMY bureau to further discuss the establishment of a Task Force on youth rights and Development.

**Panel 6.2 - Professionalizing Youth Work in Africa through academic interventions: Youth studies & Research, including training centres & programmes**

**32.** This is about establishing an academic discipline on youth work. The critical role of the youth ministry is setting the standard; the role of Youth Ministers in collaboration with education ministries can be that of ensuring that there is adequate publicity around professionalizing youth workers.

**33.** The AUC proposed roadmap on professionalizing the field of youth work.

**Issues Raised**

**34.** A clear definition is needed to set the difference between professionalizing and operationalizing youth work: Professionalizing youth work should ideally include increased research around youth and agreeing on a set of code of ethics. Emphasis in this area is that we build on existing initiatives instead of reinventing the wheel.

## Recommendations

**35.** Specific actions are recommended to pursue the sensitization on the issue of professionalizing youth work

- a) Establishment of academic youth development work;
- b) Initiate advocacy and communication;
- c) Initiate research and studies to ensure sustainability.

### **Item VII: COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN AFRICA FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

**36.** The presentation pointed out the fact that Africa still lacks competitiveness and an enabling environment. The presenters further called upon the use of innovation such as recognizing youth as source for creating their own employment; with special attention paid on the existing needs.

## Issues Raised

**37.** There is a skills mismatch between academic institutions and the job market. There is also need to promote public/ private partnerships dialogue in this regard. It was also noted that technology can spearhead innovation in Africa.

## Recommendations

**38.** The meeting discussed a number of recommendations including the following.

- a) Lowering cost of doing business;
- b) Setting up the right kind of infrastructure and policy frameworks;
- c) Failure in entrepreneurship is expected and need not be penalized;
- d) Single business visa for all Africa;
- e) Intra African trade needs to be promoted;
- f) Infrastructure price needs to be reduced;
- g) Increase productivity of labor intensive industries;
- h) Facilitate mobility in Africa by abolishing visa requirements;
- i) Setting up a youth dedicated fund with minimal conditions.

**Item VIII: INCREASING INVESTMENT FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN AFRICA**

**Panel 8.1- How to finance youth Employment Action plans and achieve the 2% annual reduction in youth unemployment by 2018**

**39.** In Africa informal is the new normal with regards to employment. As a result most young people will end up working in the same places as their parents. Governance is as important as funding when it comes to youth employment and empowerment issues. Youth unemployment is a cross sectional issues, addressing it therefore requires a multi-sectoral approach.

**Issues Raised**

**40.** The following ideas were the concerns of participants during the debate that follows:

- What are the key contextual parameters for youth unemployment?
- What are financing strategies to reach the 2% reduction in youth unemployment?

**Recommendations**

**41.** The following recommendations were formulated:

- a) Good governance is as important as funding;
- b) Improve productivity in informal sector by providing infrastructure;
- c) Local governments to support the growth of informal non-farm sector by enabling enterprises to conduct business;
- d) Simple occupancy tax reforms in large cities to fund basic urban roads and infrastructure and other innovative funding mechanisms as levies on air tickets, fuel etc.;
- e) Feasible, low-cost, sharply focused policy initiatives;
- f) Country to develop a skills based approach;
- g) Governments need to prioritize reforms (trade, logistics, informal firms).

## **Panel 8.2 - Increasing domestic funding to accelerate youth empowerment in Africa: Roadmap towards the African Youth Investment Plan**

### **Issues Raised**

**42.** The following questions were addressed to the participants to guide the reflection during the debate:

- a) Is money spent specifically on youth programs the best way to spend money that benefits youth?
- b) Is the money spent on youth managed in a transparent manner to ensure that it is spent well?
- c) Do governments produce plans and targets that demonstrate that it understands the nature of the problem and has a roadmap for solving it?
- d) Are the youth involved in the design of youth programs and in monitoring their implementation, including the implementation of the budget for these programs?

### **Recommendations**

**43.** As recommended below, the following actions could be implemented as priority areas of focus to address the issues concerning domestic fund mobilization to accelerate youth empowerment:

- a) Analyse the situation of youth in the country to have a baseline;
- b) Assess the extent to which the policies and programmes of government address the situation and needs highlighted in the previous step, and propose new policies as needed;
- c) Assess (at the beginning of the budget year) whether adequate funds (budget) have been allocated to implement the youth-friendly aspects of government policies and programmes identified in the previous step;
- d) Measure and assess, at the end of the budget year, whether the allocated funds were spent as planned and who benefitted;
- e) Audit reports too be open to the public including the youth;
- f) Assess (after several years) whether the situation described in the first step has improved;
- g) Involve the private sector and sectors of budgeting in effort of resource mobilization.

**Panel 8.3 - Partnership that work for youth development in Africa:**

44. The following partners – UNESCO, UNV, UNICEF, COMMONWEALTH, MICROSOFT and UN-Habitat - made presentations in conformity with their respective mandate, but also within their involvement and partnership with youth development in Africa and through collaboration with African countries but also to the African Union Commission. Equally, they stressed on the commitment to work with Africa and support the existing framework, such as the African Youth Charter, the Plan of Action for the Decade for Youth Development, the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps, etc.

45. The development partners engaged to operationalize the AU Guidance note on supporting the implementation of the Youth DPoA at regional and national level.

46. The AUC is also requested to facilitate Africa's participation in the Post 2015 Development agenda from a Youth Lens and partners requested the Commission to submit a draft decision on a UN General Assembly Resolution to adopt the African Youth Charter and DPoA as systems wide framework for African youth development.

47. Africa needs to agree on the promotion of a common candidate for the Secretary General's Special Advisor on Youth.

**Item IX: AUC RESPONSES**

**Panel 9.1 - Proposals**

48. The Human Resource Science and Technology Department in the African Union Commission, in its efforts to implement the decision and declaration from Malabo 2011 and after compiling the information and knowledge from the invited experts and political support from the Ministers in charge of Youth development in Africa during the Conference, has proposed responses to the needs, concerns and challenges facing African youth, within the available capacities:

- a) There is need to build capacity and ensure availability of disaggregated data on the status of youth in Africa in-line with the principles African Youth Charter for effective planning, budgeting and advocacy at Regional and National levels;
- b) An inter-Ministerial, Multi-sectoral & Inter-disciplinary approach to youth development is an imperative to adapt and achieve the Youth DPoA targets at regional and national levels;
- c) The coordinated role, capacity and involvement of the Member States RECs and the AUC on implementation, monitoring and tracking progress are required to ensure the periodic reporting on achievements.

## Recommendations

49. The following recommendations require all the concerned stakeholders to take responsibility for actions:

- a) Institutional Participation of Member States and RECs in the AU Country Technical Assistance Mechanism (CTAM) as a capacity building framework on implementing the Malabo 2011 Summit Decision;
- b) Member States and RECs to operationalize the AU Policy Framework on Institutionalization of Youth Volunteerism in Africa;
- c) Member States and RECs to operationalize and apply AU Policy advisory notes and toolkits in the process of mainstreaming youth in Fiscal planning and ensuring youth responsive monitoring & evaluation;
- d) The need for AUC and Member States to provide counter-part contribution to conduct in 2013 a full-scale National level Multi-Indicator Youth Cluster Survey and Analysis;
- e) Member States to consider to host the Continental Volunteer training and submit expression of interest for 2013 and 2014;
- f) Member States to consider the criteria and host agreement for establishment of an Operational secretariat of the AU-YVC by 2015;
- g) Member States to provide counter-part contribution for the absorption of Young professionals under the Youth Volunteer programme in ICT and Research towards the full-scale operationalization of the AU Comparative Statistical Database on Youth;
- h) Member States to Conduct National Youth Policy Compliance assessment using the AU Self-assessment compliance toolkit;
- i) AUC to operationalize the Youth Empowerment Measure and support Member States on the Development and Implementation of National Youth Plans and Development Index;
- j) Member States in 2013 should submit Initial offer and expression of Interest to Host African Youth Day in 2013 and 2014;
- k) Operationalize the AU Youth Development Solidarity Fund and support Member States to implement at national level;
- l) AUC to conduct study visit and consultation with experts on the Professionalizing Youth and Development work in Africa and report to the Bureau;

- m) Organized a High-level preparation and participation of the Bureau of COMY IV at a special session during the next AU Ministers of Finance and Economy in partnership with the World Bank, AfDB and UNECA.

**Item X: DATE AND VENUE OF THE COMY V**

50. The 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of the Conference of the African Union Ministers of Youth Affairs (COMY V) will be held in the Republic of Chad in 2014, as offered by the Minister of Youth Affairs of Chad.

51. The Republic of South Sudan offered to host the COMY VI in 2016.

**Item XI: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

52. Under this item, a number of concern was raised:

- a) The Conference requested the AUC to revert to the previous methodology. (Experts meeting and Ministerial conference);
- b) It was requested that the outgoing bureau chairs the meetings and election of new Bureau happens at the end of the Conference;
- c) It is requested that the Member States organize regional meetings, called by the bureau member ahead of the COMY itself;
- d) The Conference wished that the Bureau members come one (1) day ahead of the COMY starting day;
- e) The Conference supports the request from the Sudanese delegates to “call on Western powers to lift sanctions imposed on the Sudan, especially in the field of ICT, which affect the right of the youth to have access to these technologies in conformity with the African Youth Charter;
- f) The Pan African Youth Union delegates made propositions for the theme of the next COMY “Achieve the African Youth Potential by establishing a funding and monitoring”;
- g) About the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pan African Youth Union, the PYU delegates held a meeting with the Chairperson of the COMY IV during which Equatorial Guinea was chosen as host for the event that could be organized on November 1<sup>st</sup>, or late December. The Chair of the COMY IV committed himself for a trip to Equatorial Guinea and to meet the Head of State H.E. Mr. Obiang Nguema on the subject.

**Item XII: CLOSING CEREMONY**

53. H.E. Adv. Bience Philomina Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs Department, on the behalf of Prof. Jean-Pierre Ezin, Commissioner for HRST expressed

her appreciation and gratitude to her colleague for offering her the opportunity to participate in the closing session and to address the conference of Ministers. She congratulated the COMY IV for the results achieved and the adoption of the report and recommendations. Adv. Gawanas also informed the conference about the coming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 2013 and stressed on the theme of the event that is “Pan Africanism and African Renaissance”. While doing so, she insisted that the Ministers of Youth Affairs engage towards the reflection on the role of the African Youth within this dialogue concerning the theme. While engaging the Ministers and the African Union Commission in implementing the agreed actions, she insisted on the post MDGs (2015) for Africa to ensure that economic growth present a human face, be pro-people and be delivered within inter-generational dialogue.

**54.** The Chairperson of the COMY IV Bureau, H.E. Mr. Anatole Collinet Makosso, Minister of the Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the COMY IV thanked all the Ministers and heads of delegations for the good achievements they followed the reflections during the last three days. The Chairperson also apologised for any inconvenience caused to any of the participants during the election process as well as within the management of conference, while trying to reach consensus.

**55.** H.E. Mr. Makosso expressed his gratitude for the trust that guided the election of his country, the Republic of Congo to lead for the next two years the destiny of the African Youth and its development. He also thanked the COMY III members for the good work accomplished between 2010 and 2012. He then called on all stakeholders' constant support and cooperation with the members of the COMY IV Bureau to work hard and increase efforts to reach the best outcomes with sustainable impacts for and with the youth. He insisted on the use of the existing instruments and promoted the intergenerational dialogue and governance. Finally, he declared closed the 4<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the conference of the AU Ministers in charge of youth and announced that the COMY V will take all of them to N'Djamena, Republic of Chad, in 2014, preferably before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

**56.** The 4<sup>th</sup> ordinary Session of the Conference of the African Union Ministers in charge of Youth Development closed at 20:30 on 14 September 2012.

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